grandis (Tumbe, Peru, type in Vassar College), *Empidonax atrirostris* (Venezuela?, type in Cab. Lawr.) and *Myiarchus Yucatanensis*. This last is highly interesting, owing to the novel identifications it implies. It is what Mr. Lawrence in 1869 (Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist., N. Y.) called *M.* "*Mexicanus* Kaup," whilst contending, very properly, for the distinction between his *cinerascens* and Kaup's bird. To everybody's surprise, Kaup's *Mexicana*, only lately identified, proves to be what Baird called *M. Cooperi* in 1858. This announcement of Dr. Sclater's, upon examination of Kaup's type specimen, of course makes quite a commotion in the synonymy of the several species implicated.— E. C.

BOTANY.

New Parasitic Plant of the Mistletoe Family.— Miss Millington of Glens Falls, N. Y., sends some specimens of the curious new parasite which she discovered last summer in Warren and Essex Counties, N. Y. and which have very much interested our botanists. It grows upon the branches of Black Spruce trees so abundantly that it has evidently injured, and apparently killed, some of the trees most infested by it. *Arceuthobium Oxycedri* of Bieberstein grows on juniper trees in the Caucasus region, and here and there in Southern Europe as far west as Spain. This was the only species known, and the only habitat, until Sir William Hooker brought to light American plants growing on Pine trees in the Hudson's Bay region and west to Oregon and gave a good figure in his Flora-Boreali Americana, referring it to Bieberstein's species. Mr. Nuttall, however, distinguishes this American species as *O. Americanum;* and Dr. Engelmann about twenty-five years ago distinguished two more species from the far west and south west. These plants are a sort of Mistletoe, of diminutive size, with small scales at the joints in place of leaves. They were unknown nearer to us than Hudson's Bay and the Saskatchewan on the north, and the Rocky mountains on the west, until last summer, when Mr. Peck of Albany surprised us by sending, for a name, a specimen of an *Arceuthobium* in fruit, collected by himself, if we rightly understand, in Rensselaer County, New York, inhabiting a black Spruce. Miss Millington, to whom belongs the credit of first detecting the plant, sent her specimens later. She found it in two localities and

in great abundance. "The limbs of the trees affected were very much distorted: every twig bristled with the little parasite, and some trees seem to have died from the effects of its absorption of their sap." It is curious to notice, first that a plant of this sort, growing on the boughs of Spruce trees in such quantity as to distort and even destroy them, and in three (adjacent) counties of a long and fully settled region, has been entirely overlooked, and then, when discovered, found about the same time by two independent observers at considerable distance from each other. We may now expect that it will be detected through the whole length of the Adirondacks, at least if it proves to be the same species as that of Hudson's Bay, as we think is likely. It grows, however, upon Spruce instead of Pine. The plants are diminutive, and in Dr. Engelmann's opinion, which is much to be relied on, is probably specifically distinct. So he names it *Arceuthobium minutum*. Curiously enough Mr. Elihu Hall found last summer, in Oregon, a larger *Arceuthobium* also inhabiting Spruce trees, and may therefore throw more light on the study of the New York plant. The specimens are now in the hands of the botanist most competent to this investigation, Dr. Engelmann of St. Louis — A. GRAY.

FLORAL CURIOSITY.— A friend has brought me a Fuchsia, grown in his parlor window, which exhibits one of those abnormal growths not uncommon in the vegetable world, but which I have not observed among Fuchsias. Two of the outer sepals are perfect green leaves, precisely similar to the ordinary foliage of the plant, tapering to a broad petiole and uniting at the base, with the two normal sepals, to form the tube above the germ. The rest of the flower does not differ from other blossoms. It is an interesting instance of the well understood fact that sepals and corollas are transformed leaves, or rather advanced development of leaves. — C. J. S.

E. HALL'S COLLECTION OF DRIED PLANTS OF OREGON.— Mr. Elihu Hall of Illinois passed last summer in Oregon, where he was most industriously occupied in amassing a large collection of botanical specimens. These are now being arranged and named and will soon be offered to subscribers in sets, at eight dollars the one hundred specimens. The magnitude of the sets of Phænogamous and Vascular Cryptogamous plants may be rightly

estimated at from six to five hundred specimens in the fuller sets, with smaller ones as low as two hundred species. Some of these plants are new, many are rare, and indeed Oregon plants generally are scarce in all but the older herbaria of this country. So that these specimens, generally very nice and complete ones, and in limited quantity, are likely to be taken up at once. As Mr. Hall may soon leave Illinois upon another exploration, application for these collections may be addressed to Mr. Charles Wright, Harvard University Herbarium, Cambridge. — A GRAY.

DISPERSION OF SPORES. — A. E. de Moravia mentions in "Science Gossip" a carrot-colored fungus (Peziza aurantia), about two inches broad, which when blown upon emitted a dense cloud of spores, with a distinct "fizzing" sound. Its spores were arranged in long tubes (asci) opening on the surface, but no spiral springs or other means of emission could be detected.

ZOOLOGY.

SERPENTS WARMED BY A LIZARD. — In the same glass case were two horned frogs (Phrynosoma, and really not frogs at all but lizards), and two young serpents, the milk snake and the red-bellied snake, each about ten inches long; when the sunshine left the window-sill on which the case rested, the two serpents coiled themselves together under one of the lizards, and were completely hidden by it, as if seeking protection from the chill air of the evening. — BURT G. WILDER.

FLYING SPIDERS. — At Providence, R. I., Oct. 22, about 9 A. M., with the thermometer at 55° and a strong breeze from the south, I saw numbers of small Lycosas run up the pickets of a fence and when near the top, raise themselves as high as possible by straightening their legs, and turning their abdomen upwards. Immediately afterward some of them were blown off from the fence and carried away in a nearly horizontal direction.

One, after leaving the fence, settled to within a foot of the ground, and then moved slowly northward horizontally about twenty feet, where I lost sight of it. Another blew against me, and a thread extending upward caught on my face. Four others were blown from the fence so quickly that I could not follow them with my eyes. The spiders were about a sixth of an inch long and were probably young.